



Briefs . . .

Gas pump closure

The gas pumps at the shoppette across from the Walters Street gate are closed so new pumps can be installed.

Car registration required

Phase III of the Vehicle Registration Campaign started Monday and runs through Nov. 12. Phase III is the enforcement phase. Drivers who were issued a citation and have exceeded the 10-day period will have to register at the gate or be denied access. Newly assigned personnel will be issued a citation and will have 10 days to register their vehicles.

Retiree Appreciation Day

The Fort Sam Houston Retiree Council and the Retirement Services Office will host the annual Retiree Appreciation Day Saturday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School, Building 2841, Willis Hall, at the corner of Harry Wurzbach and Stanley roads. Brooke Army Medical Center will provide flu shots, as available, beginning at 8 a.m. Other medical services will be available as well. For more information, call 221-9004 or see related article on Page 2.

Legal assistance appointment changes

Starting Monday, the Fort Sam Houston Legal Assistance Office will offer walk-in appointments, except for wills, Mondays starting at 1 p.m. and Fridays starting at 8:30 a.m. Appointments will be on a first-come, first-served basis with priority service for military in uniform. People can sign up 30 minutes prior to the scheduled start time. Additionally, walk-in service is no longer available for wills; people must now make an appointment for will service, which is offered Wednesdays. The legal office will continue to offer appointments Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays as attorney availability and mission requirements permit. For more information, call 221-2353 or 221-2282.

Health care opportunities

The U.S. Army Recruiting Command will sponsor briefings on the Interservice Physician Assistant Program and the Army Medical Department Enlisted Commissioning Program Tuesday in Building 1375, Room 10B. PA program briefings will be held at 8:30 a.m. and 2 p.m., and AECP briefings will be held at 9:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Soldiers can also learn about the programs Tuesday from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. at the U.S. Army Recruiting booth in front of the Rocco Dining Facility. For more information or to reserve a seat at the briefings, call Capt. James Jones, IPAP program manager, at 502-626-0386, DSN 536-0386 or 1-800-223-3735, ext. 60386; e-mail ipap@usarec.army.mil; or visit www.usarec.army.mil/armypa or www.usarec.army.mil/aecp.

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Photo by Cheryl Harrison

Gen. John Abizaid, commanding general, U.S. Central Command, presents Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez with a certificate of retirement Wednesday during Sanchez's retirement ceremony at MacArthur Parade Field. Abizaid also presented Sanchez's wife, Maria Elena, with a certificate of appreciation.

Sanchez retires at Fort Sam

General's career comes full circle

By Elaine Wilson
Fort Sam Houston Public Information Office

The highest-ranking Hispanic Soldier in the U.S. Army ended 33 years of distinguished service to the nation Wednesday during a retirement ceremony at MacArthur Parade Field.

"I'm not ready to leave," said Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez. "But it's time."

Sanchez, a South Texas native, was most notably the commander of coalition ground forces in Iraq from 2003 to 2004, the year after the fall of the Saddam Hussein regime. His last duty assignment was as commander of U.S. Army's V Corps in Germany.

Gen. John Abizaid, commanding general, U.S. Central Command, was the host commander and reviewing officer for the ceremony.

"Today we celebrate the conclusion of Rick Sanchez's 33 years of distinguished service," Abizaid said. "While he may take off his uniform today, his distinguished service will continue."

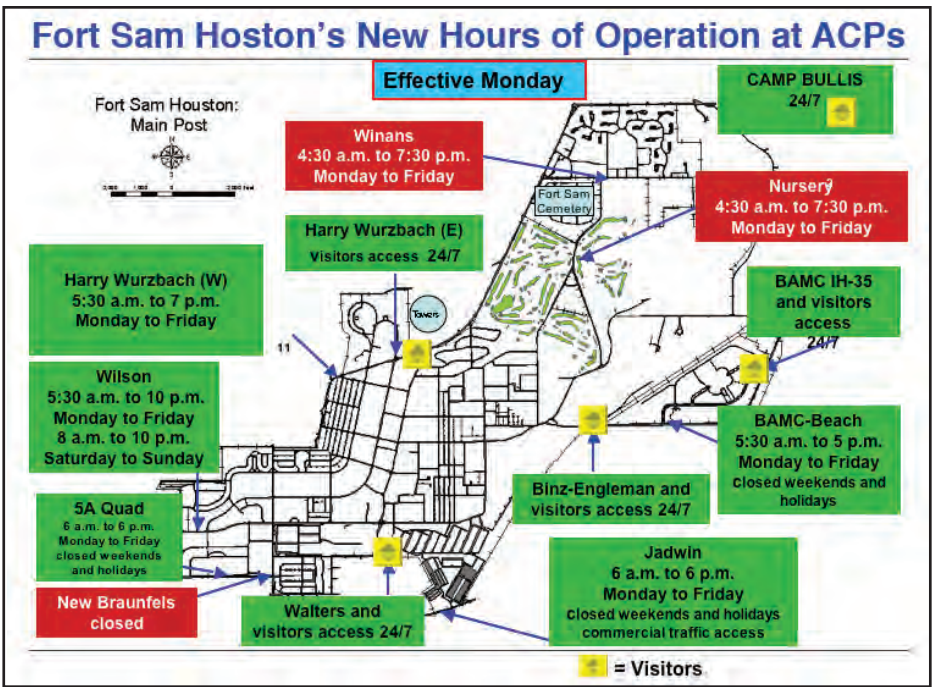
Abizaid had high praise for the general who was "at the forefront of commanding Soldiers in war and peace.

"Rick Sanchez has led troops from platoon to corps. He's commanded troops in combat, not once, but several times. He fought a campaign of counterinsurgency in Iraq that led ... to the capture of Saddam Hussein himself. But he fought the toughest campaign in April 2004 that any Soldier has been faced with."

Abizaid was alluding to the controversy surrounding prisoner abuse at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq. The abuse took place during Sanchez's tenure.

"I've never served by a better Soldier in tougher times," Abizaid said. "At the end of the day our measure will not be judged by critics who safely view the world from afar, but by the people who share our dangers, who risk all for the freedom of our nation, who rejoice in having the opportunity to shape a better world; by the measure of those people who serve, who know, who are willing to risk all.

See **SANCHEZ RETIRES** on Page 4



Fort Sam to change gate hours

Fort Sam Houston has changed the hours of two access control points and closed one due to a Department of the Army funding reduction of the contract security program. Effective Monday at 4:30 a.m., the Winans and Nursery ACP hours will be 4:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. weekdays and closed on weekends and holidays. The New Braunfels gate will close permanently. All other ACPs will maintain their current hours of operation. For gate hours, see the map at left.

Retiree Appreciation Day

BAMC to provide flu shots, medical testing at annual event

The Fort Sam Houston Retiree Council and the Retirement Services Office will host the annual Retiree Appreciation Day Saturday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School, Building 2841, Willis Hall, at the corner of Harry Wurzbach and Stanley roads.

Brooke Army Medical Center will provide flu shots, as available, beginning at 8 a.m. Other services available include:

- Diabetes screenings
- Screenings for prostate specific antigen
- Cholesterol screenings
- Vision tests
- Oral cancer checks
- Ear, nose and throat checks
- Blood pressure tests
- Glaucoma pressure tests
- Grip strength testing
- Body mass index

BAMC staff members will be available to answer questions.

The Office of the Staff Judge Advocate will provide classes on key issues in estate planning, such as tax consequences of various forms of gifting acts, the probate

consequences of different forms of property ownership, the significance of medical directives, the variety of powers of attorney and long term care insurance.

The OSJA will also provide on-the-spot powers of attorney, as requested, and, in some cases, schedule appointments for retirees who want to make changes to their estate documents.

The ID card section, located in Building 367, will remain open from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. to issue ID cards. People should bring their DD Form 214 or retirement orders, and marriage, birth or death certificates, if applicable.

Retirement Services will be available to make changes on retired pay accounts with the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, to include allotments, addresses, taxes and bank changes. Personnel will be available to answer questions pertaining to retirement benefits and entitlements.

Representatives from Social Security, TRICARE, Department of Veterans Affairs, Texas Veterans Commission, Texas Land Board, Army Career and Alumni Program, BAMC Retiree Activities Group, Chaplains Mentor Program, Army Community Service, Fort Sam clubs and various service organizations also



Photo by Elaine Wilson
Spc. Jordan Martin, Akeroyd Donor Center lab technician, performs a blood pressure check prior to drawing blood from Esther Quesada, a regular donor from Kingsville, Texas, at the 2005 Retiree Appreciation Day.

will be available with information and to answer questions.
(Source: Retirement Services Office)

Fort Sam Houston News Leader

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Army activates IMCOM to improve Soldier support

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Army activated the Installation Management Command Oct. 24 to consolidate and strengthen installation support services to Soldiers and their families through the full authority of command.

Lt. Gen. Robert Wilson assumed the IMCOM command at a Pentagon ceremony hosted by Lt. Gen. James Campbell, director of the Army Staff. The new command places the former Installation Management Agency, the former Community and Family Support Center and the former Army Environmental Center under a single command as a direct reporting unit.

“Today we take the next step in the evolution of Army installation management ... in order to create a more efficient, effective and agile organization to ensure the best Army in the world is supported by the best installations in the

world,” Wilson said.

In keynote remarks, Campbell drew a parallel between the IMCOM and the new Army advertising slogan, “Army Strong.” He defined “strong” as the ability to stand up for oneself, while “Army Strong” is the ability to stand up for everyone else.

“In my mind, the Installation Management Command shows that it is Army Strong each and every day,” Campbell said, “with the strength to make an installation a community; a set of quarters a home; and complete strangers, friends.

“(IMCOM has the strength) to ease separation and connect the Soldier on-point with a family at home; the strength to genuinely care for the loved ones back home so that young Soldiers facing life and death can focus on the mission at hand.”

As IMCOM commander, Wilson is dual-hatted as the Army’s assistant chief of staff for installation management, reporting directly to the Army chief of staff, Brig. Gen. John A. Macdonald, former IMA director, became IMCOM’s deputy commander.

Under IMCOM, CFSC is renamed the Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command, and becomes a subordinate command of IMCOM, commanded by Brig. Gen. Belinda Pinckney, with its own flag. The AEC is now the Army Environmental Command – also a subordinate command, commanded by Col. Michael O’Keefe, with its own flag.

The flag casings and uncasings were a symbolic focal point of the activation ceremony, and the three gold and red flags, standing together in a rank, seemed to further underscore the unity of purpose inherent in the new organization.

“The Army has never been in greater need of installations as flagships of readiness than it is now,” Wilson said, citing the construction, personnel and equipment realignments required to support Base



Photos by Stephen Oertwig

Lt. Gen. Robert Wilson (center) and Command Sgt. Maj. Debra L. Strickland (right) unfurl the new Installation Management Command flag at the activation ceremony Oct. 24 at the Pentagon. Wilson became IMCOM commander at the ceremony.

Realignment and Closure, Army Modular Force, and Global Defense Posture Repositioning. He said BRAC alone accounts for more than 1,200 actions that impact the IMCOM mission.

The Army announced the establishment of the IMCOM as a direct reporting unit in August. This initiative is part of Army efforts to reorganize its commands and specified headquarters to obtain the most agile command and control structures to support the expeditionary, modular force.

The full authority of command is vital to effectively direct the vast resources necessary to support troop deployments while meeting the needs of families, Army officials said in announcing the decision to form IMCOM. Consolidating the installation management structure under IMCOM optimizes resources, protects the environment and enhances the well-being of the

Army community. IMCOM will provide fast, efficient and agile support to commanders in the performance of their tactical and strategic missions.

The new command, currently headquartered in Virginia and Maryland, will relocate in 2010 to Fort Sam Houston, in accordance with requirements of the 2005 BRAC round. The deputy commanding general will locate in Texas, while the commanding general and ACSIM functions will remain at the Pentagon.

The new command also will consolidate the four IMA regions within the continental United States into two as required by BRAC. The Western Region will stand up in November at Fort Sam Houston, with consolidation taking place over the next few years. The Eastern Region will locate at Fort Eustis, Va., in 2010.

(Source: Army News Service)



Lt. Gen. Robert Wilson talks about how the Installation Management Command is the next step in the evolution of installation management during the command’s activation ceremony Oct. 24 at the Pentagon.

Celebrate America’s Military events

Purple Heart Monument Dedication

The Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 1836 will host a Purple Heart Monument Dedication ceremony Friday from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Bexar County Justice Center, Dolorosa and Main streets. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call Tony Roman at 699-0292.

San Antonio Symphony concert

The San Antonio Symphony will perform Nov. 9 from 6:15 to 9 p.m. at the Municipal Auditorium, 100 Auditorium Circle. The U.S. Army’s Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps will perform outside the Municipal Auditorium. The event is free and open to the public; however, a ticket is required for the event. Tickets for military personnel are available at the ticket office in the Sam Houston Club. For more information, call the San Antonio Symphony Box Office at 554-1010.

Buffalo Soldier commemorative ceremony

A Buffalo Soldier commemorative ceremony will be held Nov. 11 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the San Antonio National Cemetery, 517 Paso Hondo St. The guest speakers for the event are retired Maj. Gen. Irene Trowell-Harris, director of the Veterans Affairs Center for Women Veterans, and retired County Judge Edward Harrison, of Brenham, Texas. The event is free and open to the public.

Veterans Day parade, wreath laying ceremony

A Veterans Day parade and wreath laying ceremony will be held Nov. 11 at 11 a.m. at the Alamo, 300 Alamo Plaza; the parade will begin at 1 p.m. Grand Marshalls for this year’s parade are Brig. Gen. P.K. Keen, commanding general of U.S. Army South; Adm. John B. Nathman, commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command; Lt. Gen. Dennis Larsen, vice commander, Headquarters Air Education and Training

Command; and Lt. Col. Marc L. Magram, U.S. Marine Corps.

Veterans Day ceremony at Fort Sam

The community is invited to Fort Sam Houston’s Veterans Day ceremony Nov. 11 at 9:30 a.m. at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. The keynote speaker for the event will be Cmdr. Bradley Lee, commanding officer of the USS San Antonio. The event will include a wreath and banner presentation, gun salute, a tribute to veterans from the Native American community, and music from the U.S. Army Medical Command Band and the Texas Children’s Choir.

Pow Wow to honor veterans

In honor of Veterans Day and Native American Heritage Month, the community is invited to the seventh annual Pow Wow Nov. 11 from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the 32nd Medical Brigade Central Gym, Building 961. The event will include intertribal and exhibition dances, vendors and food. For more information or to request reasonable accommodation for a disability, call Glenn Ribblett at 221-9401.

Freedom Fest

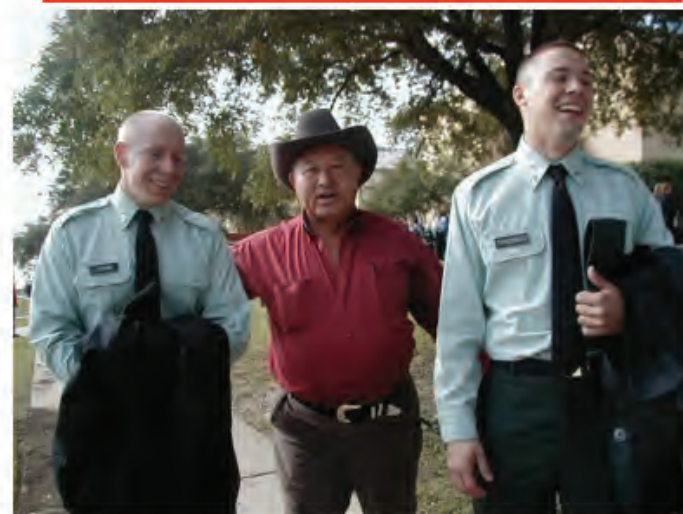
A Freedom Fest will be held Nov. 11 from 3 to 7 p.m., at the Milam Park, 500 West Commerce St. There will be exhibits, food booths and musical entertainment by the Navy Rock Band and local musician, Jay Perez. The event is free and open to the public.

San Antonio Zoo military discount

On Nov. 12, the San Antonio Zoo, located at 3903 N. Saint Mary’s St., will offer military personnel and their immediate families a 50 percent discount on admission tickets. Patrons must show a military ID card to receive the discount.

Mission Thanksgiving 2006

Celebrate this great American holiday with some great Americans -- our sons and daughters in uniform.



If you want to open your home to two of Fort Sam Houston’s trainee Soldiers for Thanksgiving Day, call 221-4026 or 221-4362

Briefs cont. . . .

Cast a vote in Military Idol

The 2006 Military Idol finals will be broadcast Saturday from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time on the Army Knowledge Online Web site at <http://www.us.army.mil>. This year’s competition includes 12 finalists from installations worldwide, including Staff Sgt. Cornelius Whitaker, of Brooke Army Medical Center. Following the finals, viewers can vote for their Idol pick until 5:30 p.m. The winner will be announced during the reveal show Sunday from 2 to 2:30 p.m. To view and vote, people will need an AKO account or an AKO account holder to sponsor them as a guest. To establish an account, visit <http://www.us.army.mil>. For more information about Military Idol, visit <http://www.armymwr.com/portal/recreation/promotions/militaryidol>.

Silver Caduceus Society luncheon

The Silver Caduceus Society will host a membership and mentorship luncheon Nov. 9 at 11 a.m. at the Picante Grill on the corner of Broadway and Pershing roads. The guest speaker will be Col. Robert Thompson, branch chief of the Medical Service Corps from the Human Resources Command. The Silver Caduceus Society, open to Medical Service Corps officers, is dedicated to professional and personal development. For more information, call Col. Bradley Freeman at 221-6075.

Maj. Gen. Webb retires

Maj. Gen. Joseph Webb, the U.S. Army deputy surgeon general, will retire Nov. 9 at 8 a.m. at MacArthur Parade Field.

Health benefits open season

The open season for the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, Flexible Spending Accounts and the new Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program will be held Nov. 13 through Dec. 11. For comparison booklets, visit http://apps.opm.gov/rates/non_postal.cfm?year=2007. To make open-season enrollments, changes or cancellations, visit the Army Benefits Center-Civilian Web site at <https://www.abc.army.mil> or call toll-free 1-877-276-9287.

Health benefits fairs

The Civilian Personnel Advisory Center will sponsor two health benefits fairs: one for Brooke Army Medical Center employees and one for all other civilian employees. The BAMC health fair will be held Nov. 13 from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Medical Mall. The main post fair will be held Nov. 15 from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the San Antonio Credit Union conference room, Building 2750, Stanley Road. For more information, call 221-2526.

Weapons training simulator

The Engagement Skills Trainer 2000 weapons training simulator is now ready for use by any military unit located on Fort Sam Houston or in the San Antonio area. The system provides realistic training on all Army small arms. The system is versatile and can be used for basic zeroing and grouping, practicing record fire, firing from defensive positions and realistic “shoot, don’t shoot” scenarios. For more information, call Edmund Martin at 295-0509.

Legal assistance office closure

The Fort Sam Houston Legal Assistance Office will close Nov. 17 for training. The office will resume normal operations Nov. 20. For more information, call 221-2353 or 221-2282.

Mission Thanksgiving

Families can invite 32nd Medical Brigade Soldiers into their home for a family-style Thanksgiving dinner through the “Adopt a Soldier” holiday program. For more information or to register, call the Army Medical Department Regimental Chapel at 221-4362 or 221-3390.

First joint unit opens under BRAC

Story and photo by Nelia Schrum
Brooke Army Medical Center Public Affairs

Using scalpels to cut the ceremonial ribbon, doctors from Brooke Army Medical Center and Wilford Hall Medical Center opened the joint cardiothoracic surgery unit Monday at BAMC.

In opening the joint center, the Army and Air Force took a first step toward becoming one of two large premier military medical training centers in the United States. Set to be called the San Antonio Military Medical Center with north and south campuses by 2011, the services are in the process of implementing the recommendations of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission.

While patients will still have outpatient services at both medical centers, all inpatient cardiothoracic surgery will now be conducted at BAMC.

Brig. Gen. James Gilman, the commander of BAMC, said that although the Army and Air Force had been working together for more than 10 years, as the two hospitals work closing to implement the BRAC, the operation would remain patient focused.

“By and large we are already operating as a team,” Gilman said. “As we work out the forks in the road, we will be doing more things for our patients.”

The commander of Wilford Hall Medical Center, Brig. Gen. David Young, said that as the hospitals merge, the goal would always be to do the right thing for patients.

Cardiothoracic surgery involves the heart and the chest including the lungs and esophagus. Lt. Col. David Sees, who is the chief of cardiothoracic surgery unit, said that the surgery service had performed about 250 surgeries annually.

These surgeries include procedures like coronary bypass surgery, heart valve replacement and lung surgery. The combining of the two service operations allows the surgery service to perform additional surgeries. The combined unit includes six physicians – three from each service. Sees projects that the new combined service will see almost a doubling in the number of procedures performed.

“In addition to better patient care



Brig. Gen. James Gilman, commander, Brooke Army Medical Center, and Brig. Gen. David Young, commander, Wilford Hall Medical Center, use scalpels to cut the ceremonial ribbon Monday officially opening the joint cardiothoracic surgery unit at BAMC.

and supporting the Base Realignment and Closure recommendations, the new unit will improve readiness because we will all be taking care of more critically ill patients in the intensive care unit,” Sees said.



Photo by Nelia Schrum

CNN anchor visits BAMC

CNN’s Lou Dobbs visits with Marine Cpl. Aaron Mankin, a combat camera journalist, Oct. 25 in the Burn Center at Brooke Army Medical Center. Dobbs asked Mankin about the burns he sustained while covering the war in Iraq. Dobbs was in San Antonio for a live broadcast on “Broken Borders.” A supporter of the Center for the Intrepid, Dobbs also taped a piece for his show with wounded warriors at BAMC.

Sanchez retires

Continued from Page 1

“Rick Sanchez leaves the service of our nation a great man.”

Sanchez expressed mixed feelings over ending his career. “Retirement is a very difficult thing for me to accept because my Soldiers have been fighting and dying for four years now and we have no end in sight. To walk away while engaged in battle is not the ethic of a warrior; however, I had no choice,” he said.

The general urged Americans to unify in their support of Soldiers fighting the war on terrorism.

“America has not been fully committed to winning this war,” Sanchez said. “The U.S. military alone cannot win this war. Our nation has not focused on the greatest challenge of our lifetime; the political and economic elements of power must get beyond the politics to ensure the survival of America.”

Sanchez said comparisons have been drawn between the war in Iraq and the Vietnam War; comparisons that are “meaningless” to Soldiers on the battlefield.

“America is sending these Soldiers off to war,” he said. “They must be supported at all costs.”

Sanchez also emphasized the importance of integrity. “In the end, it is not the politician or general for that matter who must do what is right. It is the Soldier who has been given the task of accomplishing a seemingly impossible mission and who finds himself in the middle of a fight under fire who must do what is right.”

Looking back on his career, Sanchez pointed out key moments, including one that led to his 33-year career. He recalled when, as a high school junior, he traveled to Fort Sam Houston from his hometown of Rio Grande City, Texas, with his best friend looking to “fulfill our dreams of becoming a Soldier.



Photo by Elaine Wilson

Gen. John Abizaid, commanding general, U.S. Central Command, presents Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez with a Defense Distinguished Service Medal Wednesday at the Army Medical Department Center and School to honor Sanchez’s 33 years of distinguished service.

“This is where I started my association with the U.S. Army,” he said. “It is fitting that this is the place where my life as a Soldier will end.”

To conclude, Sanchez expressed gratitude for the support of his wife, Maria Elena, his four children and the Soldiers and leaders he served with during his career. “Thanks for your love and for being there every time I needed you.”

Sanchez said he was recently asked what he would miss most about the Army. “I said, without hesitation, the Soldiers.

“I am always humbled by the professionalism and dedication of today’s warriors,” he said. “There is no greater honor than to command Soldiers, especially in battle.”

CNN hopes Humvee nets big bucks for Fisher House Foundation

By **Nelia Schrum**
Brooke Army Medical Center
Public Affairs

A refurbished CNN Humvee that stopped at Brooke Army Medical Center Oct. 26 is touring the country with a goal of raising big bucks for the Fisher House Foundation.

The Humvee, dubbed “Warrior One,” was used by media covering the war in Iraq. The vehicle came under heavy fire in April 2003 near Baghdad while carrying producers, video journalists and correspondents in Iraq.

CNN shipped the vehicle back to the states where it was overhauled by the crew of The Learning Channel’s “Overhaulin’” program. A special on the refurbished Humvee will air Nov. 14 on TLC.

The overhaul crew transformed the body of the vehicle and air brushed images of correspondents and troops onto the vehicle. The vehicle now serves as a tribute to those who served in the Global War on Terrorism.

The refurbished Humvee sports a DVD, four LCD monitors and sound system. Warrior One is now touring military bases and other sites across the country. CNN plans to auction the vehicle in January through Barrett-Jackson Auction Company, a classic car auction house. CNN will donate the proceeds from the auction to the Fisher House Foundation. The Fisher House Foundation partners with the military and the Veterans Administration to provide com-



Photo by Mike Dulevitz

Soldiers take a bird's eye view of Warrior One, a refurbished Humvee used by embedded CNN journalists in Iraq. The air brushed vehicle features pictures of military members and the journalists and will be auctioned in January to benefit the Fisher House Foundation.

fort homes for hospitalized patients and their families.

“The crew from Overhaulin’ has created a memorable tribute to military personnel who serve during times of war and the journalists who cover them,” said Jim Walton, president of CNN Worldwide. “We feel the Fisher House — with its mission to support military families during times of medical need — is an ideal recipient for the proceeds raised by the auction.”

“We are delighted to learn of CNN’s efforts to honor America’s heroes — its service men and women wounded in the Global War on Terrorism,” Fisher House Foundation chairman Ken Fisher said. “The visibility that will result from this initiative will help Americans understand the selfless sacrifices of the men and women who risk their lives to defend and protect us.”



Photo by Nelia Schrum

Patriotic gift

Audrey Fisher admires a quilt made for her by the residents of the Fisher House during a tea held in her honor. Fisher was in town Oct. 26 to check on the progress of the Center for the Intrepid and the two new Brooke Army Medical Center Fisher Houses that are set to open in late January. The two new Fisher Houses will provide an additional 42 rooms for families of recovering wounded. Fisher serves on the boards of both The Fisher House Foundation and the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund. These foundations are jointly funding the new buildings at BAMC.

PostPulse: With the upcoming holidays, how do you deal with stress?



“With my husband going back to Iraq, I will probably just work or volunteer.”
Staff Sgt. John McGlocklin and wife, Patsy



“I ride my motorcycle. I just go out and ride.”
Staff Sgt. Corrin Johnson



“I keep in contact with my family by phone. They are in Miami.”
Sgt. Jose Garcia



“I just start early with everything. The shopping, cooking, gift wrapping and decorating.”
Sandi Illing

Pastoral Care Week celebrated with healing humor

Story and photo by Cheryl Harrison
Fort Sam Houston Public Information Office

Pastoral Care Week is celebrated annually in October. This year’s celebration was Oct. 22 through 28. It was an opportunity for chaplains and pastoral care counselors, educators and providers to share and celebrate various ministries.

The Brooke Army Medical Center Department of Ministry was no exception. In observance of this year’s theme “healing humor,” a group of about 35 wives, mothers, girlfriends and sisters of wounded warriors were treated to fun, food and fellowship Oct. 24 at the historic Menger Hotel in downtown San Antonio.

The day’s festivities were held in the Minuet Room with lively mariachi music provided by Show Janitzio and a buffet luncheon that everyone enjoyed.

“This is the first luncheon we have had like this and we hope to make it a quarterly event,” said Mona Alloway, secretary for the Department of Ministry at BAMC.

Following lunch, the group was encouraged by the healing words of Col. Wendy Martinson, commander, Fort Sam Houston U.S. Army Garrison.

“Last year I lost my mom. My mom passed on to my family that to make it through a day without humor is almost impossible. You have to be able to lighten the burden that you carry in your heart, and the best way to do

that is to laugh and find the little pearls that make life worth living and that give you that peace of mind to allow you to move ahead with your life,” Martinson said.

Curtis Jungman displayed healing humor with his sleight of hand and humorous words while performing a number of magic tricks that defied any laws of physics and had the watchers wondering “how did he do that?”

On a serious note, Yvonne Germain gave a testimony of healing touch. Speaking in her native Spanish, her words, translated on paper, allowed listeners to follow and grasp what she had been through with her son, Lance Cpl. Merlin Germain, who was severely wounded in the war on terrorism.

“I have been by my son’s side at BAMC for a year and nine months,” said Germain.

Germain continued with encouraging words to the wives, mothers, daughters and girlfriends present. “There is something very important that I need to tell all here present. When you feel like crying, go into the bathroom, cry, shout all you want; then fix yourself and return to your son or husband with a calm, serene and positive attitude.”

“We have to bring light to situations so our Soldier will continue to heal,” added Father Jim Schellenberg, from BAMC, as Germain concluded.

The final speaker, Catherine Vriend, doctor of behavioral medicine at BAMC, put closure to the event with her words of the healing journey.



Father Jim Schellenberg, staff chaplain in the ministry and pastoral care department of Brooke Army Medical Center, translates the touching words spoken by Yvonne Germain. Ms. Germain has spent the last year and nine months at the side of her wounded warrior son Lance Cpl. Merlin Germain, encouraging, uplifting and loving him back to health.

“When dealing with heavy issues write down your feelings, have a good cry, blow your nose, then go back into that room and help your loved one get well,” said Vriend.

Each guest was then treated to goody bags, books, lots of hugs and the promise of future gatherings.

Disability Employment Awareness Month

Marathon wheelchair racer inspires Fort Sam community

Story and photo by Minnie Jones
Fort Sam Houston Public Information Office

Mikail Davenport was the guest speaker at the Disability Employment Awareness Month Seminar Oct. 25 at the Sam Houston Club.

The month of October recognizes that disabled Americans are part of America’s work force. The national theme for 2006, “Americans with Disabilities: Ready for the Global Workforce,” highlights that workers with disabilities are an underused and ambitious group of Americans eager to pursue their career dreams.

Davenport, a marathon wheelchair racer and San Antonio native, became disabled after catching polio at age 2. Numerous surgeries enabled him to walk unaided until he was 40, when he developed Post-Poliomyelitis Syndrome, a recurrence of his original polio symptoms that forced him back into a wheelchair in 1995. In 2002, Davenport had a bout with cancer, when he had one-third of his left lung removed.

Davenport, founder of “Disabled, Not Unable,” an educational organization that assists persons with disabilities to develop their physical, mental and spiritual conditioning to the utmost of their ability, won the 2005 Austin Mayor’s Committee for People with Disabilities Media Award. Davenport cycled 350 miles from South Padre to Austin, Texas, to raise funds and awareness of the capability of people with disabilities, cancer survivors and older Americans. Davenport is a technical writer, Web designer, a software systems analyst and an interfaith minister.

Davenport, now 58, focused his presentation on his formula for staying fit and preparing for his marathons. He talked about his training, nutrition and mental conditioning regiments, and how people can tailor physical fitness plans to fit their needs and abilities.

On nutrition, “find your optimum nutrition,” Davenport said. “What may be good for you, may not be good for me.” Any form of physical activity, even sports, can be tailored to meet people’s individual needs and abilities, he said.

“Keep your physical enemies — pain, depression and fear — at bay by using them to your advantage,” he said.

Quoting Franklin D. Roosevelt, he said, “The only thing we have to fear is fear itself. That’s true even in our daily lives; in a spiritual sense, fear is our greatest ‘disabulator’ more than any disability can ever be.”

Other workshop segments covered a number of topics relating to health, including nutrition, fitness and disease prevention. Additional guest speakers at the seminar were Capt. Pauline Potter, director of Health Promotions; and Capt. Renee Cole, chief of Nutrition Health Promotion; both from Fort Sam Houston. Potter’s presentation, “Nutrition for life,” covered the use of the new Food Guide Pyramid, portion distortion, how to use the food label and healthy shopping. Potter’s visual and descriptive display of artery clogging fat gave the audience a realistic look at how much sugar and fat are hidden in everyday foods.


The seminar was sponsored by the Fort Sam Houston Human Relations/Equal Employment Opportunity office and the Special Emphasis Program.




Cecilia Johnson presents Mikail Davenport with an eagle on behalf of the Individuals with Disabilities Program at Fort Sam Houston Oct. 25 at the conclusion of the Disability Employment Awareness Month Seminar at the Sam Houston Club.

Troop Salute

232nd Medical Battalion






Soldier of the Week

Name: Pfc. Linda Fairchild

Unit: E Company

Hometown: Cordele, Ga.

Reason for joining the Army: For a better way of life, to make a difference and help out in my community, and do as much as I can for our fellow Soldiers.



Junior Leader of the Week

Name: Pvt. Stephanie Dale

Unit: E Company

Hometown: Lake City, Minn.

Reason for joining the Army: The challenge, money for school and the experience. I plan on majoring in nursing.

Career Clips

Referral coordinator, San Antonio - Responsible for managed-care products, referral and pre-certify authorization requests for in office services, outpatient procedures, hospital admissions and diagnostic procedures. Must be familiar with insurance processes and denials of claims.

Resolution specialist, San Antonio - Resolves billing issues to facilitate prompt and complete payment for services rendered. Researches and reconciles differences between customer’s understanding of scope of services and company’s understanding. Must have at least two years experience in billing and collections, including experience handling complicated billing situations.

Catering company seeks operations manager - Must have three years experience. References required. Fax resume to 226-1800 or apply in person Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, call 226-5919.

The Army Career and Alumni Program office provides numerous services to eligible people in transition including job assistance. Information on these and other positions is available to ACAP customers in the ACAP Office, Building 2263, Room B099 or by calling 221-1213.

Trial Defense Service patch gets long-awaited makeover

Capt. Mark Santos
Fort Sam Houston Trial Defense Service

Many people are unaware there is a Trial Defense Service unless facing an administrative separation or a Uniform Code of Military Justice action.

But once a command tries to separate Soldiers from the Army or punish them via Article 15 or court-martial, the Trial Defense Service becomes their lawyers and advocates.

The Trial Defense Service is a separate arm of the Judge Advocate General’s Corps. The service’s sole function is to defend Soldiers accused or suspected of committing offenses under the UCMJ.

The staff, comprised of fully trained and licensed attorneys, are competent to defend

Soldiers on any military justice matter, from missing formation to murder. The attorneys are completely independent and answer only to more senior defense attorneys. Therefore, they can zealously advocate on behalf of Soldiers in front of commanders, court-martial panels and judges without worrying about anything but defending Soldiers.

To re-affirm the service’s independence, there is a newly designed unit patch. The only personnel who will wear this new patch are trial defense attorneys and their paralegals. So when Soldiers see the patch, they will know the Soldier wearing it is working for them, not their commander.

The patch incorporates the old star design



patch that defense attorneys wore for the past 25 years. The old patch is not unique to the Trial Defense Service. The new patch incorporates the shape of a shield to symbolize the defense services that they provide. The sword represents the Soldier’s warrior ethos, and the scales of justice complete the patch.

Before deciding on a new design, Trial Defense Service Headquarters in Washington, D.C. solicited input from trial defense attorneys around the world.

The three trial defense attorneys assigned to Fort Sam Houston will soon be wearing the new patch. The attorneys represent all Fort Sam Houston Soldiers and also travel to other posts in Texas and

beyond when needed. The office is one of the busiest Trial Defense Service offices in the Army.

In 2006, the office has already conducted more than 2,000 counselings of Soldiers for Article 15s, administrative separations and related military justice actions. This year alone, the team has already represented more than 70 Soldiers facing trial by courts-martial at Fort Sam Houston, Fort Hood and Fort Bliss, Texas, and Fort Polk, La. The team also represents Soldiers in pre-trial confinement hearings and separation boards.

When Soldiers see the new patch, they should know the Trial Defense Service does not work for the commanders or prosecutors, but is here to help Soldiers. For more information, call 295-9742 or DSN 421-9742.

Book explores medical concerns of military recruits

The Borden Institute has released “Recruit Medicine,” the latest book in the “Textbooks of Military Medicine” series. The book reflects the increasing importance of health and fitness in the recruit population.

Aimed at people who provide care and determine policy for military recruits, the book covers important aspects of recruit medicine, such as the medical qualifications process; health promotion and environmental risk management; chronic diseases such as asthma; injury prevention and management; communicable illnesses; behavioral, dental and women’s health; and recruit mortality.

Recruit medicine combines aspects of epidemiology, preventive medicine, primary care, orthopedics, gynecology, psychiatry and dentistry. The textbook emphasizes the need for health care professionals to understand how these factors affect recruits’ ability to perform to standard.

“In times past, military medicine has often under appreciated the value of recruit medicine,” said Army Surgeon General Lt. Gen. Kevin Kiley. “The military can no longer afford to do so. Because of the rising costs of entering recruits into the training base, and the requirement that they immediately contribute to the combat effectiveness in their first unit of assignment, military medicine must develop a dynamic approach to the use of our knowledge of recruit medicine.

“As the accessions process transforms volunteer citizens into Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines, military medicine must help maximize every recruit’s chance of attaining military standards in health and fitness. A healthy and fit recruit becomes a healthy and fit Soldier, Sailor, Airman or Marine,” Kiley said.

“Just as the military’s center of gravity is the individual Soldier, Sailor, Airman or Marine, the individual’s center of

gravity is good health,” said Col. (Dr.) Bernard DeKoning, the book’s senior editor and assistant surgeon general. “An individual in poor health cannot withstand the rigors of combat or stability operations, nor can he or she properly transform information into action. Our sons and daughters who volunteer to protect the nation deserve the very best in military medicine from the moment they choose to enlist.”

The U.S. Army’s Borden Institute was conceived in 1986. The Borden Institute’s publications are available free of charge to qualified U.S. military medical personnel. The books integrate lessons learned in past wars with current principles and practices of military medicine.

The Borden Institute offers volumes in hardback, CDs and on its Web site. For more information, visit www.bordeninstitute.army.mil.

(Source: Borden Institute News Release)

MSC officers benefit from Silver Caduceus Society

Story and photo by Elaine Wilson
Fort Sam Houston Public Information Office

Medical Service Corps officers seeking professional development can find a wealth of information through their local Silver Caduceus Society.

“There are more Medical Service Corps officers here than at any other post,” said Col. Bradley Freeman, society president. “You don’t have to go far to find opportunities to network.”

The Silver Caduceus Society is dedicated to fostering leader development, communication and mentorship between senior and junior officers. While there are societies at installations throughout the Army, Brig. Gen. Sheila Baxter, MSC chief, said her goal is to have a Silver Caduceus Society at every location where MSC officers serve.

“In our technology-driven world, we frequently lose sight of the value associated with personal interaction — the ‘human touch.’ Thus, we must work toward fostering improved communications through face-to-face interactions,” she said.

The society here meets regularly to discuss work-related issues, such as professional updates and future corps developments, as well as to network.

“A young logistics captain may attend a meeting and benefit from meeting a logistics colonel,” said Capt. Rick Velazquez, operations officer from the Medical Command current operations branch. “That colonel can pass on current and future opportunities in the field. They can help you find your career path.”

Along with career advice, senior officers can also ascertain junior officers’ concerns, find out what is happening in the “trenches” and have a forum to share valu-

able insights. In turn, junior officers gain from senior officers’ extensive knowledge and experience and develop relationships that can have long-lasting benefits.

“Senior officers can pass on all types of information, from guiding duty assignments to how to act at a dining in,” said Capt. Sean Friendly, special assistant to the chief, MSC. “It’s all important and relevant.”

As the society president and a mentor, Freeman said the mentorship role is particularly important on a recruitment level. “We need to make the Army attractive and important for these young officers. They need to understand how necessary and relevant they are,” he said.

“As the Medical Service Corps completes its 89th year of service, our corps remains relevant, integral and ready to excel,” Baxter said. “In order to sustain this proud legacy, we must continue to seek opportunities to develop the next generation of Medical Service Corps officer, who is better educated, more experienced and better prepared to excel in peacetime and at war.”

On a lighter note, Freeman joked that junior officers are a “willing audience for our war stories.”

Along with professional issues, society members also make time for fun. “We’ve played dodge ball, kickball and bowling,” Freeman said. “There’s a great camaraderie among members.”

Society membership is open to all MSC officers, active duty, reserve and retired, and the society includes



Col. Bradley Freeman (center), Silver Caduceus Society president, mentors fellow society members, Capt. Rick Velazquez (left) and Capt. Sean Friendly at the Army Medical Department Center and School.

an extensive range of specialties from microbiology and podiatry to health services and environmental science.

The society hopes to entice new members with an invite to the San Antonio Spurs vs. N.Y. Knicks game Nov. 11. The cost is \$38 per person. To reserve seats, e-mail Friendly at oscar.friendly@amedd.army.mil.

People seeking more information about the society are encouraged to attend the Mentoring and Membership Luncheon Nov. 9 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Picante Grill on the corner of Broadway and Pershing roads. The guest speaker will be Col. Robert Thompson, chief, MSC Branch, Human Resources Command. The cost is \$12. For reservations or for more information about the society, call Freeman at 221-6075.

Keep worries at bay while deployed

By Minnie Jones
Fort Sam Houston Public Information Office

The Dependent Care Program was established to ensure that single parents and military members with a military spouse have a contingency plan for children in the event they both deploy or have military duties that affect their ability to care for their children.

Worries over family matters can often interfere with responsibilities at work, especially true for parents whose “work” is ensuring that the Army’s mission is successful.

The Army continues to stay on the cut-

ting edge of social change. Long gone are the days of the Women’s Army Corps that offered very limited job opportunities for female Soldiers. Also, gone are the days when women were discharged from the Army if they became pregnant. Today’s Army is a direct reflection of today’s society. Soldiers are marrying younger, and the Army has a record number of dual military couples, and an increasing number of single parents. Today, there are more than 20,000 dual military couples currently serving in the U.S. Army.

“A family care plan is as essential to Soldier readiness as his or her field gear and weapon,” said Medical Command Sgt. Maj. Adolph George. “A family care plan is the means by which a Soldier can provide adequate and proper care for their family members when military duties prevent them from doing so themselves.”

Who must have a family care plan?

Army Regulation 600-20, Army Command Policy, Chapter 5, paragraph 5-5, outlines which Soldiers must have a family care plan:

- Any pregnant Soldier without a spouse, whether because of separation, divorce, death or separate residences, or who is married to another service member.
- Any Soldier who has no spouse, whether

because of separation, divorce, death or separate residences, with full or joint legal and physical custody of one or more family member – regardless of age – who is incapable of self-care.

- Any divorced Soldier who has not remarried, and by court decree has liberal or extended visitation rights that allow family members to be solely in the Soldier’s care for more than 30 days at a time.
- Any Soldier whose spouse is not capable of self-care, or who is physically, mentally or emotionally disabled requiring special care or assistance.

See **WORRIES** on Page 10

Worries

Continued from Page 9

• Any Soldier married to another service member with full or joint legal custody of one or more family members under the age of 19 or an adult family member – regardless of age – incapable of self-care.

Soldiers who are married to a civilian do not need to have a family care plan, but it is highly encouraged, said George, “because it will be a means to provide assistance to the non-military spouse in the event they are injured, become ill or incapacitated, or are otherwise unable to care for dependent family members.”

Leaders must first counsel those Soldiers who fit into one of the five categories concerning their need for an FCP and inform them of what a complete FCP includes.

The four main forms that make up a complete FCP packet are DA Forms 5304-R, 5305-R, 5840-R and form 5841-R. DA Form 5304-R is the Family Care Plan Counseling Checklist that the commander or designated representative fills out with the Soldier. DA Form 5305-R is the actual FCP that the commander must approve. DA Form 5840R is a Certificate of Acceptance as Guardians or Escort, a notarized document that indicates that the guardian or escort accepts the responsibility to care for a Soldier’s family members. DA Form 5841-R is a power of attorney that the Soldier uses to designate the guardian escort.

The FCP packet must also include a completed DD Form 1172, Application of Uniformed Services Identification care of each family member; and a DD Form 2558, Authorization to Start, Stop or Change an Allotment for Active Duty or Retired personnel or other proof of financial support arrangement. It should also include a letter to the guardian or escort; this letter should include pertinent information, such as location of important doc-

uments, such as wills, health care providers, procedures to access military and civilian facilities, services, and entitlements and benefits on behalf of the family members.

Counseling must include the possible consequences a Soldier could face if they do not complete their FCP within the allotted time, which is 30 days for active duty Soldiers and 60 days for reserve Soldiers. Soldiers can be prohibited from re-enlisting or be involuntarily separated from the Army for failing to have a FCP or adequately maintaining one.

“The punishment might seem harsh, but the simple fact is Soldiers who require a FCP but choose not to complete one are considered ineligible for overseas assignments or deployments and should be considered for separation from military service,” said George.

FCPs are not just for temporary duty assignments and deployments, plans are also needed for the daily care of family members while performing regular military duties, George said.

A leader’s second responsibility in regards to maintaining an FCP is ensuring their Soldier’s FCPs are up to date. FCPs need to be updated annually in the Soldier’s birth month. This can be done by initializing and dating the original DA Form 5305-R. Soldiers must also renew their packets anytime something happens that could affect their FCP, such as death to a guardian or whenever the Soldier is deployed, mobilized or processed for pre-deployment. These updates are mandatory to ensure all documents are current and legal.

Finally, leaders need to constantly remind and emphasize to their commanders the importance of a family care plan. “Bottom line, leaders must stay on top of this issue. It is very important and crucial; one invalid plan is too many,” said George.

For more information on family care plans, call George at 221-6210 or e-mail adolph.george@cen.amedd.army.mil.



Photo by Dr. Gloria Davila

Cadet 2nd Lt. Brittany Maas, Cole Junior ROTC public affairs officer, and retired Lt. Col. Robert Hoffmann, Cole JROTC senior Army instructor, stand ready to present an encased American flag to the Fort Sam Houston Independent School District Board of Trustees to thank them for their support.

Cole JROTC presents flag to school board

By Cadet 2nd Lt. Brittany Maas
Battalion public affairs officer

Retired Lt. Col. Robert Hoffmann, Junior ROTC senior Army instructor at Robert G. Cole High School, and Cadet 2nd Lt. Brittany Maas, Cole JROTC public affairs officer, presented an encased American flag to the Fort Sam Houston Independent School District Board of Trustees at the board’s monthly meeting.

The flag was presented in recognition of the board’s continued support of JROTC and the Bexar County Homeless Veterans Burial Program. The Robert G. Cole High School JROTC has been involved with the program for the past three years and has participated in more than 50 burials. The flag presented was one used at an actual burial service.

Sponsored by Dignity Memorial Funeral Homes and the Bexar County Veterans Affairs office, the service is provided to homeless veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces to ensure a dignified remembrance of their military service.

SPORTS BRIEFS . . .

Play prohibited on Salado Course

Play is prohibited on the Salado Course at the Fort Sam Houston Golf Course until the conclusion of the growth season, which will facilitate the healthy growth of the greens and tees. People who violate this directive will be subject to having their playing privileges revoked. The course is expected to open in January 2007; however, people should wait until an official announcement is made concerning the opening of the Salado Course. The golf course staff apologizes for any inconvenience this causes to valued patrons. Golf patrons are welcome to use the Lomas Course until the reopening of Salado. For questions or concerns, call 221-5863.

Trinity University football

The community is invited to attend Trinity University football team's final regular season home game vs. The University of The South, from Sewanee, Tenn., Saturday; kick off is at 1:30 p.m. The Trinity University Tigers, undefeated in conference play, are ranked in the top 25 in all NCAA Division III football polls. Parking and admission are free. For more information and directions, visit <http://www.trinity.edu/departments/athletics/Football/>.

Intramural basketball

A coaches meeting will be held Monday at 1 p.m. at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center. For more information, call Earl Young at 221-1180.

Neanderthal Trail Run

The Training Support Company will sponsor a Neanderthal Trail Run Nov. 17 starting at 7 a.m. at TSC, Building 5130, Camp Bullis. The course is 5.2 miles of rugged, off-road ter-

rain with challenging trails. Unit T-shirts and guidons are welcome; personal hydration systems are authorized. The event is open to military members and Department of Defense employees. For more information or to register, call Staff Sgt. Timothy Ragina at 295-7620 or e-mail timothy.w.ragina@amedd.army.mil.

Tough 'Ombre 10K Run

The 26th annual Tough 'Ombre 10K Run will be held Dec. 1 at 9 a.m. at McAllister Park, 13102 Jones-Maltsberger Road in San Antonio. The Tough 'Ombre 10K is the oldest certified race in Texas. All registrants will receive a T-shirt. The fees are \$20 for 10K, \$15 for 5K and \$10 for 3K. The four-person team for the 10K is \$70. For more information, call Cheryn at 830-336-4543 or e-mail cheryn@gvtc.com, or visit www.active.com to register online.

Women's basketball tournament

Sign up by Dec. 4 for the 10th Annual Rangerette Classic women's basketball tournament Dec. 9 and 10 at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center. The double-elimination tournament will follow National Collegiate Athletic Association rules. There is an eight team and 12 player limit. Awards will be given to the top three individual and team winners. Entry fee is \$225 per team. For more information, call Earl Young at 221-1180 or e-mail earl.young@samhouston.army.mil.

Intramural bowling

Letters of intent for intramural bowling are due by Dec. 5. Letters should be mailed to Earl Young at 1212 Stanley Road, Suite 20, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, 78234-5020 or e-mail earl.young@samhouston.army.mil. A coaches meeting will be held Dec. 12 at 1 p.m. at the Fort Sam Houston Bowling Center. The season begins Jan. 9. For more information, call 221-1180 or 221-1234.

Soldiers, families enjoy BOSS Halloween Bowling Bash

By Ben Paniagua
[Hacienda Recreation Center](#)

About 130 Soldiers and their families jam-packed the Fort Sam Houston Bowling Center Oct. 14 to participate in the annual Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers Halloween Bowling Bash.

The Soldiers and their families were treated to a fun-filled evening of free bowling thanks to the efforts of the Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation Sponsorship Office and the Fort Sam Houston BOSS Program. In addition to the families, there were many Soldiers in advanced individual training and initial entry training who enjoyed the event.

"Thank you for this event," said Pvt. Lacey Burke, of E Company, 232nd Medical Battalion. "It's just what we needed." Burke's friends, Pfc. Stephen Martinez and Ryan Kingston, also of E Company, agreed and claimed, "It was great."

According to bowling center staff, a typical Saturday evening usually draws between 80 to 100 people. The bowling

center staff said they appreciated the added patronage. Due to the positive response to the event, more Bowling Bashes are in the works. The event was sponsored by Century 21 United, VFW and First Command Financial Planning.



Courtesy photo
Pvt. Lacey Burke and Pfc. Stephen Martinez and Ryan Kingston, all from E Company, 232nd Medical Battalion, enjoy the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers Halloween Bowling Bash Oct. 14 at the Fort Sam Houston Bowling Center.

Parents prove passionate about family involvement

Story and photo by Dr. Kathy Maxwell
Fort Sam Houston Elementary School

The Fort Sam Houston Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization has focused on increasing parent involvement since the beginning of school. The members have burned up record levels of energy and hours of volunteer work to assure family involvement in elementary school life.

The PTO began with September’s Fear Factor Family Night, which brought in more than 400 parents and children for fun, scary activities, pizza, baked goods and homework passes.

Fifth-grader Megan Daknis said, “I loved watching the pre-k and kindergarten children finding bugs in buckets of slime. They squealed and screamed.”

“I was completely surprised at the fantastic community response for this event and the volume of work that went into making Fear Factor such a success,” said Principal Jayne Hatton.

October’s family focus was a scholastic book fair built around the “Reading Rainforest” theme. The event was planned and organized by PTO president Bobbi Jo Bowser and vice president Jennifer Tucker. The book fair’s main event was the Guest Reader Program, where wounded heroes and hometown heroes from the Soldier and Family Assistance Center read to the children. More than 300 parents, students and staff attended the book fair.

A lead-in activity for classroom participation was a rainforest door-decorating contest followed by a rainforest animal scavenger hunt. Doors were judged by the faculty, staff and parents, with winners announced during family night activities.

The entire school reflected the rainforest theme, including the school foyer, which was decorated with rainforest greenery and jungle vines. The central focus was a detailed painting of a bookcase filled with books. The hallways were richly covered with larger-than-life paper jungle leaves and yards and yards of animal footprints and posters. The library became a jungle complete with a rainforest Kapok tree with its leafy upper story covering the ceiling.



Courtesy photo

Spc. Andrew Powers, from the Soldier and Family Assistance Center, reads to Fort Sam Houston Elementary students during the weeklong Rainforest Book Fair. The book fair was a huge success due in part to the wounded Soldiers and hometown heroes who participated in the event.

Teachers were allowed a preview before the book fair. Each teacher was allowed to choose a book and create a personal wish list as donation for their individual classrooms.

The wounded warriors and hometown heroes who volunteered to read to the children were Leroy Diaz, Charles Dominguez, Bobby Ehrig, Justin Farrar, Sincio Galarza, John Housenick, Christopher Kind, Derek McGinnis, Everitt Patton, Andrew Powers, Vanasio Sele and Matt Sevald. Judith Markelz, of the Soldier and Family Assistance Center, arranged for the Soldiers to participate.

Juicy Juice Company provided the refreshments for the family events. The San Antonio Zoo docent representative, Alma Thatcher, provided the live rainforest animal exhibit, including snakes, geckos and rats.

Funds raised at the book fair by the PTO will be donated to the Fort Sam Houston Elementary and other organization activities.

**Fort Sam Houston
Independent School District
Weekly Calendar -
Monday to Nov. 11**
“Celebrate Freedom Week”
Fort Sam Houston Elementary School
Wednesday
Positive Behavior Support picnic during lunch
Early dismissal for pre-kindergarten through fourth
grade, 2 p.m.; fifth and sixth grade, 2:30 p.m.
Nov. 9
“Jack and the Bean Stalk” children’s theater per-
formance in cafeteria, pre-kindergarten through
fourth grade, 8:15 and 9:15 a.m.
Last day to earn 10 cougar cash
Nov. 10
Veterans Day/student holiday

Robert G. Cole Jr./Sr. High School
Monday
“C” Awards in Moseley gym, 6 p.m.
Wednesday
Junior ROTC formal inspection, all day
“Worth the Wait” parent meeting in cafeteria, 6 p.m.
Nov. 9
Cookie dough delivery in mall area, 1 p.m.
Junior varsity football at Natalia, 7:30 p.m.
Nov. 10
Veterans Day/student holiday
Girls’ varsity basketball vs. Leakey at Cole, 5 p.m.
Varsity football vs. Natalia at Cole, 7:30 p.m.
Nov. 11
State cross country meet in Round Rock, TBA
Girls’ junior varsity and varsity basketball vs. St.
Anthony at Cole, 12 and 1:30 p.m.

Cole Junior ROTC
turkey shoot Nov. 10

The Robert G. Cole High School Junior
ROTC Battalion will host the 39th Annual
Turkey Shoot Nov. 10 from 10 a.m. to 2
p.m. at the Cole Rifle Range. Prizes will
be awarded in eight catagories. Tickets are
\$1 for three shots and can be purchased
from any JROTC cadet or at the door. For
more information, call the battalion at 368-
8730, ext. 7018 or 7019.

Cole sports update

Cole cross country teams win district

The girls’ and boys’ cross country teams competed in the District 30-2A last week. The girls’ varsity team captured the 30-2A District crown and advanced to the Regional Meet behind a strong team performance. The following runners received medals for placing in the top 10: Brittany Starr, second; Martha Brown, third; Tabitha Fielder, fourth; and Brittany Maas, seventh. They were well supported by Casey Gresenz, 12th; Allison Erickson, 14th; and Karen Thompson, 16th. The Regional Meet will be held at Brooks City-Base this Saturday.

The boys’ varsity team also advanced to the Regional Meet by winning third place in an extremely competitive field, despite the lack of availability of injured runners Ben Brown and Tim Fletcher. Placing in the top 10 and receiving medals were Taylor Richardson, third; and Richard Well, 10th. They were supported by Nathan Eggers, 12th; Nathan Otto, 21st; Alex Dochnal, 22nd; Brad Kelley, 29th; and Travis Brown, 30th.

All of the junior varsity runners received medals for finishing in the top 10 of their races. Clara Kirk finished third, in spite of an ankle injury sustained two days prior to the competition, and Clara Buchanan finished sixth. In the boys’ race, Josiah Brown placed fourth, followed by Trevor Richardson in fifth place.

“All of the kids performed really well. I was especially proud of the effort the girls gave at this meet,” said Herb More, cross country team coach. “The boys’ meet was extremely competitive, so it was tough advancing to the top three.”

“I’m very proud of all of these young men and women,” continued More. “Hopefully, we will continue to improve at the Regional Meet.”

Cougars lose football heartbreaker

The Robert G. Cole High School football team lost a heartbreaker Friday night versus the undefeated district 30-2A leader Cotulla Cowboys, 17-14. Cole scored on a one yard run by Sophomore Greg Washington with six minutes left in the game to pull within three points. After stopping the Cowboys, a Cougars’ potential game winning drive was stymied by a fumble at Cotulla’s 10-yard line. Cole is now 5-3 overall and 1-2 in district. Following a bye week, they will face Natalia in the regular season finale Nov. 9th at 7:30 p.m. at Cougar Stadium. A win in the game will send the Cougars to the 2A playoffs.

Cole dinner-theater, Nov. 14 through 16

The Cole Jr./Sr. High School fall play will be presented at the school mall Nov. 14 through 16. The “Clown’s Play” by Reginald F. Bain will be performed by members of Barbara Lien’s high school drama class. The dinner theater extravaganza will include audience participation and clowns. Dinner starts at 6 p.m. and the play begins at 7 p.m. Tickets can be obtained from any cast or crew member at school during lunch period for \$5. For reservations, call 368-8730, ext. 7500. All proceeds go toward senior theater, speech and family living scholarships.

RELIGIOUS HAPPENINGS . . .

Catholic religious education registration

Registration for Catholic religious education for first holy communion and confirmation classes is now in progress. To enroll a child or for more information, call Brian Merry at 221 5006 or e-mail brian.merry@samhouston.army.mil.

Catholic Women of the Chapel

The Catholic Women of the Chapel meet Fridays at 9 a.m. for fellowship and enrichment studies. Childcare is provided. For more information, call Kate Schupbach at 212-7842.

Protestant Women of the Chapel

The Protestant Women of the Chapel meet Wednesdays from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and Thursdays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m at the Dodd Field Chapel. Childcare is provided for up to age 5. Visitors are welcome. For more information, call Lois Griffith at 226-1295 or visit www.samhouston.army.mil/chaplain/pwoc.

Fall Bible studies for OCF

The Fort Sam Houston Officers’ Christian Fellowship will host Bible studies Sunday and Nov. 19, and Dec. 3 and 17. Studies will be held from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at 1008 Gorgas Circle, Fort Sam Houston, followed by dessert. Sunday’s study will include a potluck dinner. For more information, call Lt. Col. Bob Griffith at 221-6740 or 385-8451 or e-mail robert.griffith1@amedd.army.mil.

Musician, choir director needed

The U.S. Army Contracting Agency, Southern Region Contracting Center –West is soliciting a musician and choir director for the 8 a.m. Catholic service at the Army Medical Department Regimental Chapel. For more information or to obtain a copy of the solicitation, call Christina Sylvester at 221-5367 or Donna VanGilder at 221-5586.

LMH invites residents to fall events

Lincoln Military Housing will host several free events in the upcoming weeks for family housing residents. Residents are asked not to bring guests.

November

- LMH representatives will offer residents a “Breakfast on the Go” Nov. 15 from 7 to 8 a.m.
- Along with a November Yard of the Month, LMH will judge homes for Fall Décor of the Month. The winning residents will receive a \$50 gift certificate for Home

Depot. The four winners will be notified by Dec. 5.

- Residents can enter their name in a Turkey Giveaway to win one of five turkeys through Nov. 14. The winners will be notified Nov. 15. Submit entry forms at the housing office in Building 367 or e-mail name and address to questions@samhoustonlpc.com.

For photos and upcoming activities, visit www.samhoustonlpc.com. For more information, call LMH at 270-7638.

Fight night

Boxers duke it out at Fort Sam's Boxing at the Brought III



Robert Jackson, from The Boxing Gym, helps Vanessa Gutierrez warm up before her fight Saturday during Boxing at the Brought III. The boxing event, the third on post in less than a year, drew 500 spectators to the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center. The event included 11 bouts with male and female boxers.

Photos by Elaine Wilson

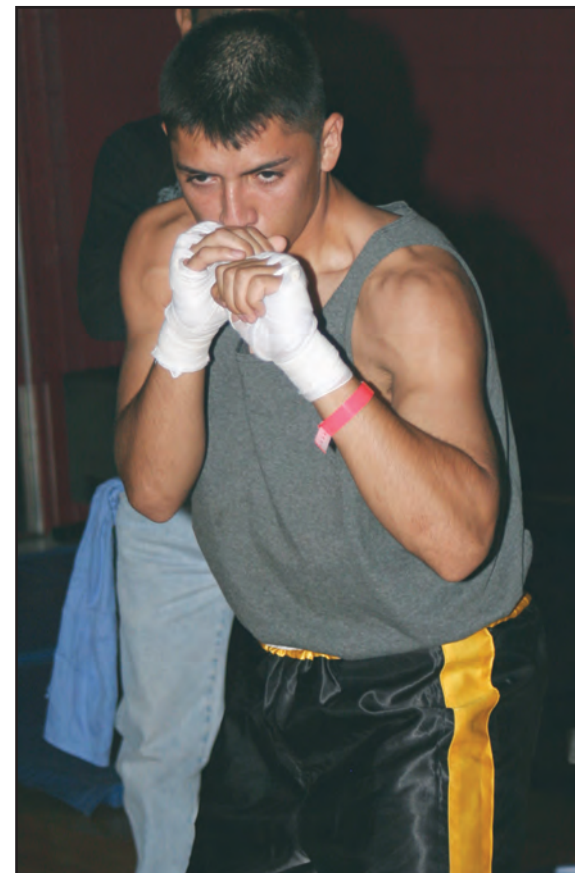


Photo by Spc. Tim Luukkonen

Jake Rodriguez, from Castillo's Boxing Gym in San Antonio, warms up before his fight. "The event was a great success, especially since it was our third in less than a year. The spectators saw 11 well-fought boxing bouts," said Doug Stanley, sports specialist from the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center. "We're just hoping for more military participation in the future."



Joe Souza, from the San Fernando Gym, wraps Clayton Curtis' gloves in preparation for his first bout. Curtis is commander of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Garrison. "I've been training for close to a year for this," the captain said. "It's my first bout."



Boxing coach Kevin Majors shows Obi Nwagwu a few moves before his first fight. "This is my first experience and it's been a good one," Nwagwu said.



(From left) William Schwartz and Mossaab Benhammou, members of the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers organization, sell entry tickets to Mario Renteria and Jasmine Cardona. Several BOSS members volunteered for the boxing event.



Five-year-old Addison and 3-year-old Aiden attempt to put on giant boxing gloves for a souvenir photo.



Clayton Curtis, (right), from the San Fernando Gym in San Antonio, trades punches with Obi Nwagwu, from the Fort Sam Houston Boxing Club. Boxers from throughout Texas traveled to Fort Sam Houston Saturday to vie for a win during Boxing at the Brought III. Nwagwu won the fight in the third round after the referee stopped the fight.

Photos by Spc. Tim Luukkonen



Jake Rodriguez swings a left hook at Omar Carrillo, from the Aztecas Boxing Club.



Stacy Nakell (right), from the Anne Wolf Boxing Gym in Austin, Texas, throws a punch at Tiffany Alejandro, from Joe's Angels Boxing in San Antonio. Anne Wolf, an eight-time world champion female boxer, attended Boxing at the Brought III and was recognized during the event.



Omar Carrillo, from the Azteca Boxing Club, is triumphant after scoring a win against Jake Rodriguez, from Castillo's Boxing Gym.



Jorge Sanchez, from Richard Lord's Boxing Gym in Austin, Texas, takes a break between rounds. Sanchez fought Kurtiss Colvin, from the Anne Wolf Boxing Gym in Austin.

Patron tracking systems safeguard personal information

By Shasta Bell
Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation

Since Sept. 11, 2001, military installations have focused on improving security by restricting access to buildings, telephones and computers. The Common Access Card has become one of the most commonly used safeguard methods.

Now, patrons of Morale, Welfare and Recreation facilities are being asked to use their CAC as part of Army-wide patron tracking systems known as RecTrac, GolfTrac and the Child and Youth Management System.

Fort Sam Houston was one of the first installations to use the tracking systems and all three systems are operating at full capacity in every MWR facility, to include the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center, bowling center, golf course and the Child and Youth Services Central Registration office. CYMS has become an essential tool for Child and Youth Service programs. It stores pertinent data such as youth immunization history and registration records.

Although the tracking systems ensure that only authorized patrons are using on-post establishments, their main purpose is to track demographics.

Information gathered from RecTrac, GolfTrac and CYMS provide the most reliable source of data on facility use as required by the Installation Status Report. Data obtained by ISR is used to gather information on patron needs and funding requirements for Army installations. The

results of ISR will serve as the basis for funding future programs specific to the installation’s demographic makeover.

Besides initial reluctance to furnish their personal information, patrons have found the process to be easy and brief. The entire transaction takes less than a minute to complete.

Each system retrieves personal information such as birth date, Social Security number and household data from the patron’s CAC into a safeguarded computer database.

“In order to fully utilize all of the features available to us in RecTrac and GolfTrac, this (personal) information must be obtained. It will not work without a household in the system,” said Carol Bass, information support officer for MWR.

Employees are trained to follow strict procedures to safeguard patrons’ information to include turning computer monitors away from view of the public to hide personal information displayed on screens.

In addition, recorded information is stored on a machine that operates similarly to the hard drive of a computer and is difficult to retrieve.

“The computer that is used to run RecTrac/GolfTrac does not contain the data. The database that contains this information is on a secure server in a locked room in a locked building that you must have an access code or an escort to get into,” Bass said. “It is behind hardware and software firewalls. Even if someone should gain access to the server, they



Courtesy photo
A patron inserts his Common Access Card in a RecTrac reader as he enters a Morale, Welfare and Recreation facility.

could not remove it from the locked rack it is mounted in, and the weight of the server is such that it would take two or more people to lift it.

“Should one of our desktop computers be stolen, RecTrac would not open since it is not logged into the Novell server to authenticate to. Basically, they would get a nice computer but no information,” she added.

The Family and MWR Command provides guidance for each tracking system, but none of the personal information

acquired in an installation’s database is shared with the headquarters.

WebTrac is another tracking system that is in the process of development for future use. WebTrac will enable Army installations nationwide to share one main server, and alleviate military members from having to register at each installation when they move.

Therefore, the military member will only have to update their household information upon arrival at a new assignment.

COMMUNITY RECREATION

Hunting season begins

Regular hunting season opens Saturday at Camp Bullis for bow and gun. For more information, call the Camp Bullis Outdoor Recreation Center at 295-7577.

Garage Sale

The next post garage sale will be held in conjunction with Christmas Along the Corridor – Pony Express Dec. 2 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the MacArthur Pavilion parking lot. Participation is free, but sellers must pre-register by calling 221-2523. A valid Department of Defense ID card is required to participate. Participants must bring their own tables to the event or can rent them from the Outdoor Equipment Center by calling 221-5225.

‘Read to the Kids’ program

The Fort Sam Houston Library offers a Video Messenger System program to deployed or pre-deployed Soldiers to stay connected with their children while they are away. The service videotapes and records individual Soldiers reading a children’s book. The completed copy of the video or DVD is then mailed to their home for their children to view as often as they like while the parent is deployed. Books used in the program are available at the post library. The service is by appointment only. To make an appointment, call 221-4702 or 221-4387.

Equestrian Center offers trail rides

One hour trail rides are offered at the Equestrian Center Saturdays and Sundays to individuals over 7 years old. Children younger than 12 years old must be accompanied by a parent. The cost is \$20 per person. The first trail ride begins at 8:30 a.m., and the last ride is at 2 p.m. Pony rides are available to children ages 6 and younger Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with a parent leading the pony. The cost is \$5 per child. For more information, call 224-7207.

Judo classes

Free judo classes are held at the Jimmy Brought Fitness

Comedy show

It’s comedy night at the Sam Houston Club Friday from 9 to 11 p.m. MWR and Top Bananas Entertainment present comedians Cleto Rodriguez, Olivia Arrington and Patrick DeGuire for an evening of non-stop humor. Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door. Tickets purchased in advance will include a free dinner with the show. Sports attire is not permitted. Show’s content may not be appropriate for individuals under 18 years old. An after party will immediately follow the event. Cleto Rodriguez has appeared on Telemundo’s “Loco Comedy Jam” and opened shows for comedians Wayne Brady, Tommy Chong and Carlos Mencia. Olivia Arrington has appeared on Black Entertainment Television’s “Comic View” and the “Latino Laugh Festival” and toured with comedians Steve Harvey and Charlie Murphy. Patrick DeGuire has appeared on Comedy Central, Galavision’s “Que Loco” and Telemundo’s “Loco Comedy Jam” and toured with George Lopez, Paul Rodriguez and Tommy Davidson. For more information, call 224-2721.

Center Saturdays from 10 to 11:30 a.m. For more information, call Carl Johansen at 279-1742.

DINING AND ENTERTAINMENT

Sam Houston Club, 224-2721

Family-style Sunday brunch

Brunch is held the first and third Sunday of each month from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The next brunch will be held Sunday and will feature a kids’ meal station, chocolate fondue station, complimentary champagne and international food station. The cost is \$13.95 for nonmembers, \$11.95 for members and \$7.95 for children 6 to 11 years old. Children 5 years old and under eat free. For more information, call 224-2721.

Super TGIF

This month’s Super TGIF, “Home is where the heart is,” will be held Nov. 17 at Sam’s Sports Bar in the Sam Houston Club at 5 p.m. Free food and live entertainment will be provided. For more information, call 224-2721.

Thanksgiving Day buffet

The Sam Houston Club will offer a Thanksgiving Day buffet Nov. 23 from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Feast on an assortment of menu items to include a traditional holiday meal. Menu selections include Virginia baked ham, sliced roasted turkey, San Antonio chipotle, gourmet mashed potatoes, macaroni and cheese, green bean casserole, candied yams, lemon meringue, pecan pie, apple pie and more. A special treat every year is Ms. Barbara’s homemade cranberry sauce. The cost is \$15.95 for members, \$17.95 for nonmembers and \$7.95 for children 6 to 11 years old. Children 5 years old and under eat free. Seating is limited and reservations are recommended. To make reservations or for more information, call 224-2721.

Sam Houston Club closed Mondays

The Sam Houston Club will not operate Mondays. The facility will continue to be open for special events reserved through the Sam Houston Club’s catering office. However, the “All-You-Can-Eat lunch buffet will only be offered Tuesday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The club staff apologizes for any inconvenience this may cause to valued patrons. For more information, call James Lancaster at 224-2721.

Bowling Center, 221-3683

QuickPlay Bingo

QuickPlay bingo units are now available at the Fort Sam Houston Bowling Center. QuickPlay is a personal handheld device that allows patrons to play bingo by using simple touch-screen technology. Choose up to four bingo cards to play at the same time. Each unit is lightweight and easy to use. The devices can be used by bingo enthusiasts who want to play alone at a time convenient to them or by bowling center patrons waiting to bowl. For more information, call the bowling center at 221-3683.

Bowl-A-Jam

Bowl to the sounds of popular contemporary music at Bowl-A-Jam Saturdays from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Fort Sam Houston Bowling Center. The cost is \$8 and includes shoes and one order of fries per lane. For more information, call 221-3683.

Eighties Day

Enjoy 80 cent bowling games and 80 cent shoe rental Sundays from 2 to 8:30 p.m. at the Fort Sam Houston Bowling Center. For more information, call 221-3683.

Coushatta Casino Resort trip

Sign up by Nov. 28 for a trip sponsored by the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Ticket Office and the Sam Houston Club to Coushatta Casino Resort in Kinder, La. The bus will depart the Sam Houston Club Dec. 5 at 7 a.m. and return Dec. 6 at 10 p.m. The cost is \$49 per person and includes roundtrip motorcoach transportation, overnight hotel accommodations, continental breakfast at the hotel and one \$23 coupon from the casino. Must be at least 21 years old and possess a valid photo identification at all times. Make reservations at the ticket office. For more information, call 226-1663 or 224-2721.

Golf Club, 221-4388

Club Championship returns

The Fort Sam Houston Golf Club will host the annual Club Championship Saturday and Sunday. The 36-hole stroke play event will be held on the championship golf course, La Loma Grande, with an 8 a.m. shot-gun start time on both days. The Club Championship will be flighted by handicaps. There will be a championship flight and open flight as well as seniors, super-seniors, ladies and junior flights. Interested golfers should register in their respective flights at the Pro Shop from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. Registration deadline is today. Participation is open to all Fort Sam Houston Golf Council members, active duty military and their family members, Department of Defense employees and contractors assigned to Fort Sam Houston. The registration fee is \$50 for members and \$70 for nonmembers. Fee includes golf carts, green fees (if applicable), prizes and an awards banquet Sunday immediately following the tournament. For more information, call the Pro Shop at 222-9386.

Demo Day at the Golf Club

The Fort Sam Houston Golf Club will host a golf manufacturers Demo Day Nov. 17 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. This is an excellent opportunity for enthusiasts of the sport to test the latest in golf equipment. Major golf manufacturers will be in attendance to give patrons the opportunity to hit with all of the newest golf clubs available on the market. In addition, the golf club will offer a 5 percent discount on all orders made Nov. 17. For more information, call the Pro Shop at 222-9386.

Harlequin Dinner Theatre, 222-9694

“Wait until Dark,” a thriller by Frederick Knot, will play at the Harlequin Dinner Theatre through Saturday. Performance tickets are \$24.95 Wednesdays and Thursdays and \$27.95 Fridays and Saturdays. The house opens for salad bar and cocktails at 6:15 p.m., the buffet is open from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. and the show begins at 8 p.m. The Alan Ayckbourn comedy “Season’s Greetings” starts playing at the Harlequin Dinner Theatre Nov. 15. Military discounts are available. For more information or reservations, call 222-9694.

MWR ticket office, 226-1663

Tickets are on sale at the MWR Ticket Office, located inside the Sam Houston Club, for popular local attractions and events as well as for out-of-state theme parks. The MWR Ticket Office is open Tuesdays through Fridays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The office is closed Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays. For more information, call 226-1663.

CHILD AND YOUTH SERVICES

Web site for military families

A new Web site, <http://www.militaryavenue.com>, gives military families information on more than 200 installations and surrounding communities. At present time, the only school information on the site is for private schools. For public school information, call the School Liaison Office at 221-9613 or e-mail keith.toney@samhouston.army.mil.

Before- and after- school program

Register youth for the before- and after-school program for middle school and open recreation. Participants must have a Child and Youth Services membership. To register for membership, patrons will need to provide a leave and earnings statement or W-2 form, two local emergency designees, \$18 registration fee and youth’s Social Security number.

Pre-k before and after school care

The Child Development Center offers before- and after-school care for the Fort Sam Elementary pre-kindergarten program. Children must be enrolled in the elementary pre-k program. Patrons must be registered with Child and Youth Services. Spaces are limited. For more information, call Central

Registration at 221-4871 or 221-1723.

Fee increase

Childcare fees for the Child Development Center and School Age Services have been increased. The increase is necessary to ensure ongoing quality childcare services for the community. The Child and Youth Services fee policy is based on Department of Defense policy and must be implemented consistently within and across Installation Management Agency regions. This ensures consistency and predictability of the CYS fee structure and procedures for Army patrons as they move from installation to installation. For more information, call Central Registration at 221-4871 or 221-1723.

Total family income change

Childcare fees are based on total family income. Total family income is now based on W-2 forms from spouses and civilians instead of pay stubs. Soldiers will still continue to provide current leave and earnings statement, updated child’s shot records, two local emergency designees, physical or sport physical within the last year, child’s Social Security number and an \$18 registration fee.

Basketball coach needed

The sports program is seeking volunteers to coach basketball. Those interested must consent and clear a background check. For more information, call Central Registration at 221-4871 or 221-5513.

Basketball registration

Basketball registration will be held Saturday and Dec. 2 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Youth Center. All other dates in between for registration will be at Central Registration, Building 2797, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The last day to register for basketball will be Dec. 2. Participants must be registered with Child and Youth Services. To register, patrons must bring a current leave and earnings statement or W-2 form, current shots for kindergarten through fifth grade, a sport physical within the last year, two local emergency designees, \$18 registration fee and activity fee.

Care packages for Soldiers

The Youth Services Middle School Teen program are taking donations for a community service project. The youth will prepare care packages to send to Soldiers overseas. Donations can be made at the Youth Center,

Building 1630, Mondays through Fridays from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturdays from 3 to 10 p.m. A list of suggested items is available at the Youth Center. Suggested donation items include: granola bars, cereal in single-size servings, personal hygiene articles, individual-size servings of soups and entrée pop-top cans, travel-size games, DVD movies and pens and paper. For more information, call the Youth Center at 221-3502.

Headstart seeks applicants

Parent Child Incorporated is seeking applicants for the Headstart program. This is a free childcare program designed to help Soldiers, E-5 and below, and low income Department of Defense civilian employees. Applicants must meet federal guidelines, and entry is based on annual income. For more information, call 221-3788.

Hourly childcare

Child and Youth Services provides hourly care for patrons seeking intermittent childcare. Patrons must be registered with CYS. Care is based on availability and must be reserved in advance. For more information, call Central Registration at 221-4871 or 221-1723.

Events

‘Wait Until Dark’ at Harlequin

The Harlequin Dinner Theatre will feature “Wait Until Dark,” by Frederick Knott, Wednesday through Saturday evenings. The cost is \$27.95 Fridays and Saturdays and \$24.95 Wednesdays and Thursdays. There are discounts for military. The house opens for salad bar and cocktails at 6:15 p.m., the buffet is open from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., and the show begins at 8 p.m. For reservations, call the Harlequin Dinner Theatre at 222-9694. The box office is open from 12 to 5 p.m. weekdays and 1 to 5 p.m. Saturdays.

MOPH unveils monument

The Military Order of the Purple Heart, Alamo Chapter 1836, will host a dedication ceremony to unveil a monument Friday at 10 a.m. at the Bexar County Justice Center, 300 Dolorosa St., corner of Dolorosa and Main streets. The monument is dedicated to the men and women wounded in all the wars. The U.S. Army Medical Command Band will provide patriotic music. The public is invited.

Audie Murphy Club Ball

The Sergeant Major of the Army Van Autreve Chapter will sponsor the first annual Sergeant Audie Murphy Club Ball Friday at 6 p.m. at the Randolph Enlisted Club at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas. The guest speaker will be Command Sgt. Maj. William J. Gainey, senior enlisted adviser to the chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff. Formal attire is required. The event is open to all service members and Department of Defense employees. The cost is \$25. For more information, call 1st Sgt. Paula Chavez at 221-0253 or e-mail paula.chavez@amedd.army.mil.

AirFest at Kelly Field

Lackland Air Force Base will host the 2006 AirFest Saturday and Sunday at the historic Kelly Field. Gates will open at 9 a.m., and the opening ceremony will begin at 10:30 a.m. The AirFest will feature the Thunderbirds and the Golden Knights, with numerous aircraft static displays on hand. The event is free and open to the public.

New Braunfels Wurstfest walk

The New Braunfels Marsch-und Wandergruppe Volksmarch Club will host a 10K and 5K walk Saturday and Sunday starting at the Employee Café at the intersection of Liberty and North streets in New Braunfels, Texas. For more information, call Helgard Hollis at 830-625-6330, e-mail Helgard@satx.rr.com or visit www.muw.walktexas.org/.

Trinity’s Staging of Romeo and Juliet

Trinity University’s speech and drama department presents Romeo and Juliet with a contemporary twist at the Stieren Theater Nov. 10 and 11 at 8 p.m., Nov. 12 at 2:30 p.m., Nov. 15 and 16 at 7 p.m., and Nov. 17 and 18 at 8 p.m. The play will be set during the San Antonio Fiesta season rather than on the streets of Verona, Italy. The cost is \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors and \$4 for students. Reservations are recommended; call the box office at 999-8515 weekdays from 2 to 5 p.m. or purchase tickets one hour prior to each performance.

Veterans Day in Fredericksburg

Various Veterans Day ceremonies will take place throughout the day Nov. 11 beginning at 11 a.m. at the National Museum of the Pacific War’s Plaza of Presidents, 340 East Main St., Fredericksburg, Texas. Author Douglass H. Hubbard Jr. will sign books in the museum’s George Bush Gallery at 1:30 p.m. Free parking is available behind the Visitor’s Center on East Austin Street.

Veterans Day Motorcycle Rally

The Viet Nam Vets/Legacy Vets Motorcycle Club will host a Veterans Day Motorcycle Rally Nov. 11 starting at 10 a.m. at the El Rincon De Maria Restaurant, 2511 Ackerman Road. The Veterans Day ceremony begins at 11 a.m. An after party will be

held from 12 to 6 p.m. at the Deer Crossing Saloon, 4810 FM 1518, Selma, Texas. The party will include music, vendors, raffles and dancing. The event is open to the public. All proceeds will benefit the San Antonio Veterans Center and the Brooke Army Medical Center’s Fisher Houses. For more information and vendor information, call “Turtle” at 520-3271 or “Ever Ready” at 273-7337.

Historic old Austin walk

The Colorado River Walkers Volksmarch Club will host a 5K and 10K walk Nov. 11 and 12 in historic old Austin, Texas, starting at the parking lot of the Comptroller’s Field Office, 1711 San Jacinto Blvd. For more information, call Stephanie Menteer at 512-832-8546, e-mail zenteer@sbcglobal.net or visit www.coloradoriverwalkers.org.

San Antonio Zoo military discount

On Nov. 12, the San Antonio Zoo located at 3903 N. Saint Mary’s St. will offer military personnel and their immediate families a 50 percent discount on admission tickets. Patrons must show a military ID card to receive the discount.

USO ‘Strike Force Bowl-A-Thon’

The USO San Antonio presents “Strike Force Bowl-A-Thon” Nov. 12 at 2 p.m. at the AMF Country Lanes, 13307 San Pedro in San Antonio. Registration forms are available at www.alamouso.org. For more information, call Julie Nichols at 227-9373, ext. 12 or e-mail nichols@alamouso.org.

OCSC November luncheon

The Officer and Civilian Spouses’ Club will host a luncheon Nov. 14 at 11 a.m. at the Sam Houston Club. The luncheon will include a “Thanksgiving dinner” for lunch and a Shopping Bazaar with jewelry, Polish pottery, decorative items, Western art and much more. The cost is \$14. For more information or reservations, call Sigrid Reitstetter at 226-8806.

VFW Post 8541 luau

The Veterans of Foreign War Post 8541 will host a Veterans Appreciation Luau Nov. 19 from 2 to 6 p.m. The VFW Post 8541 is located at 2222 Austin Highway in San Antonio. Free food, live music and refreshments will be served. For more information, call 655-2944 or visit www.vfwpost8541.org.

Thanksgiving food drive

Operation Homefront will sponsor a Thanksgiving food drive through Nov. 20. People can drop off non-perishable food items and gift cards at any San Antonio Mattress Pro Mondays through Fridays from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sundays from 12 to 6 p.m. For more information or for active duty military personnel, E-1 to E-6, needing assistance with a Thanksgiving dinner, call Karla Ayala at 659-8039 or e-mail texas@operationhomefront.net.

Free Latino Comedy Show tickets

Free tickets are now available for individuals 21 years and older for the Latino Comedy Show Nov. 25 at 8 p.m. at the Sunset Station, downtown San Antonio. The show will feature comedians Chris Fonseca, Cesar Cervantes and Ray Soto. The doors open at 6 p.m. Tickets can be picked up at various Morale, Welfare and Recreation facilities such as the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center, Library, Harlequin Dinner Theatre and Sam Houston Club. Tickets are courtesy of Sunset Station. For more information, call 221-2606 or 221-9904.

Pandemic influenza

The Cody Branch Public Library will host a seminar on pandemic influenza Nov. 28 from 7 to 8 p.m. at 11530 Vance Jackson Road. The guest speaker, Tracy Brown of the San Antonio Metro Health Department, will give advice on how people can protect themselves and their family from the flu. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call 696-6396.

SA Symphony military discounts

The San Antonio Symphony 2006-2007 concert series consists of 12 classical concerts, six pops concerts and four special events. The concerts are held Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. at the Majestic Theatre. Military discounts are available. For reservations, call Karen Cramer at 554-1000 or e-mail cramerk@sasymphony.org. For dates and feature artist, visit www.sasymphony.org.

Meetings

Warrant Officer Association meeting

The Lone Star Chapter of the U.S. Army Warrant Officer Association meets the third Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 8541, located at 2222 Austin Highway, between Perrin Beitel and Eisenhower roads. All active duty, retired, Reserve, National Guard warrant officers and family members of current or retired warrant officers are invited. For more information, call Bill Strout 590-2642 or e-mail bstrout@texas.net, or Suzan Farrell 378-0422 or e-mail suzan.farrell@us.army.mil.

SAMC study group

The Sergeant Audie Murphy Club, SMA Van Autreve Chapter, conducts a study group Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. in Building 1350 for Soldiers preparing for competition boards. For more information, call Master Sgt. Adrienne Berkley at 295-4545 or 737-4540 or e-mail Adrienne.Berkley@us.army.mil, or call Sgt. 1st Class Tiffany Reid at 295-4442 or e-mail Tiffany.reid@amedd.army.mil.

BAMC chess club

The Brooke Army Medical Center chess club meets Mondays from 4:30 to 7 p.m. in the BAMC Medical Mall. The club is open to military and their family members, civilians and patients; experience is not necessary. People can bring a chess set, or sets can be provided on site. For more information, call Sgt. Michael Veri at 557-2477 or e-mail michael.veri@cen.amedd.army.mil.

BOSS seeks single Soldiers

The Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers meets the first and third Wednesday of every month at 1:30 p.m. at the Hacienda Recreation Center. The BOSS committee was established to provide Soldiers input to the commander, who uses the committee’s recommendations to improve single Soldiers’ Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Mossaab Benhammou at 295-4014.

Training

English as a Second Language

English as a Second Language classes are held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at the Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797. ESL classes are designed to help foreign-born spouses of military increase reading comprehension, vocabulary and pronunciation. Students will participate in beginners, intermediate and advance level classes with individualized group instruction. The ESL classes are sponsored by Region 20 Education Center and the Army Community Service Relocation Assistance Program. For more information, call 221-2418.

Undergraduate evening studies

A St. Mary’s University representative will be available for appointments Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Fort Sam Houston Education Office, Room 206. For more information, call 226-3360. For information on undergraduate admission to St. Mary’s, call the Office of Evening Studies at 436-3215 or e-mail evst@stmarytx.edu. For information on graduate admission, call 436-3214 or visit http://www.stmarytx.edu/eveningstudies.

Army ROTC Lateral Entry Program

The University of Illinois Army ROTC Lateral Entry Program is looking for individ-

uals with prior military service or members of the National Guard or Reserve who wish to become officers. The Lateral Entry Program allows eligible students to contract into the ROTC as cadets when they are academic juniors, seniors or graduate students with four semesters of coursework remaining before graduation. For more information, call 877-863-4768, e-mail arotc@uiuc.edu or visit http://www2.uiuc.edu/unit/armyrotc.

Green to Gold briefings

Fort Sam Houston’s Education Center will host Green to Gold briefings for Soldiers interested in the ROTC program. The briefings will be held through Nov. 22 at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. in the Army Learning Center, Building 2247, Stanley Road and New Braunfels Avenue. Army ROTC cadre from local universities and the 12th ROTC Brigade Recruiting Office will conduct briefings and answer questions. For more information, call Maj. Parker at 458-5607 or Amy Gagnon at 295-2005.

Green to Gold program

The Army ROTC at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana seeks talented enlisted Soldiers who want to earn bachelor’s degrees. Enlisted Soldiers with officer potential and with at least two years on active duty are eligible to participate and enroll in Army ROTC through the Green to Gold Program. For more information, call 877-863-4768, e-mail arotc@uiuc.edu or visit http://www2.uiuc.edu/unit/armyrotc.

Computer certification

St. Mary’s University and New Horizons Computer Learning Center will have a representative available to discuss computer certifications Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Fort Sam Houston Education Office, Room 206. For more information, call 226-3360 or visit http://www.stmarytx.edu/continuingstudies/.

St. Mary’s University education office

A St. Mary’s University representative is available Mondays through Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Building 2248, Room 206, to assist individuals interested in a master’s degree in teacher certification. For more information, call Iona Million at 226-3360.

Volunteer

Free eye exams

The Ophthalmology Department at Wilford Hall Medical Center will offer free eye exams Nov. 17 for military beneficiaries over age 65. The clinic will provide exams for glasses prescriptions, glaucoma screening, cataract evaluations and age-related macular degeneration screening. No consult is necessary. For more information or appointments, call 292-6583 or 292-4415, or stop by the Ophthalmology Clinic, Room 1147.

Endodontics patients needed

The Endodontics department at MacKown Dental Clinic on Lackland Air Force Base seeks patients who need root canal therapy. Applicants must be a military retiree, family member of a retiree or family member of active duty and recently diagnosed by a dentist as having an endodontic condition requiring root canal therapy. Patients should obtain a written consult from their referring dentist and fax it to 292-6431 or bring it the MacKown Dental Clinic during normal duty hours. For more information, call 292-7214.

Children’s Shelter seeks families

The Children’s Shelter seeks new foster and adoptive parents to care for children in Texas. Children’s ages range from newborn to 17 years old. The Children’s Shelter is a nationally accredited agency that provides a safe haven and emergency care for children who have been abused, abandoned or neglected. For more information, call Alejandra Chavez at 212-2500, ext. 6701 or e-mail achavez@chshel.org.

Submission guidelines:

Freebies are published on a first-come, first-served basis. The deadline is noon Monday. Freebies are intended for personal household goods, and may only be submitted by active, retired or reserve military members and civilian employees working on Fort Sam Houston. Real estate ads will not be published. To submit a Fort

Freebie, e-mail **news.leader@samhouston.army.mil** or fax to **295-0512**. Freebies run for one week unless submitter calls to renew. Limit of five items per entry. For more information, call 221-1031.



For Sale: Purebred male cocker spaniel, 8 months old, papers, \$100; upright spinet piano, \$500; sleeper sofa and loveseat, \$150. Call 845-309-2765.

For Sale: Sofa, \$195; basketball goal, \$60; lamps, \$15 each; dinette table, \$125; treadmill, \$50. Call 648-9211.

For Sale: New metal signs, Old Milwaukee and others, \$10 each. Call 657-6264.

For Sale: 2004 Harley Davidson Standard, soft tail, 1,450 cc, many extras, \$17,000. Call 316-4363 on weekends.

For Sale: Blue Ox tow bar, like new, includes safety and light cables, \$250; step down trailer hitch, \$50. Call 437-0042.

For Sale: Four-piece queen bedroom set,

headboard, six-drawer dresser, two night stands, light wood, in great condition, \$200. Call 883-5502.

For Sale: Toddler stroller, \$10; toddler car seat, \$10; baby carrier, new, \$25. Call 836-4854.

For Sale: Chain link fence, 90-feet long, \$50; TV stand for 32-inch with two glass doors and shelf, \$50; will help with delivery. Call 651-9168.

For Sale: 2001 Chrysler Town and Country LX van, four-door, clean, 42K miles. Call 653-2370.

For Sale: 1994 Lincoln Mark VIII, two-year engine, \$2,000 obo; four new tires and rims off of 2006 Chrysler 300, Goodyear

Integra, P215/65R17, \$300. Call 772-1191.

For Sale: Jeep double stroller with side pockets, cup holders and toy driving accessory, \$75; Eddie Bauer pack and play with changing mat night light, \$70; baby swing, \$10; farm theme baby walker saucer, \$10; infant boys' and girls' clothing, sizes 0 to 18 months. Call 826-3791.

For Sale: 1995 Mitsubishi Diamante, plum color, V6, automatic, new battery, runs good, has damage on driver side, \$850; several washers and dryers, need minor repair, best offer. Call 333-8979.

For Sale: Seven-piece Henredon dark oak contemporary furniture, includes large triple-drawer dresser or storage piece, wall mirror,

two tall end pieces, 80-inch long light bridge, 40-inch short light bridge, king-size head board, in good condition, \$350 obo. Call 490-6244.

Free To Good Home: White male Pekingese, 2 years old, all shots and well groomed. Call 661-6632.

Free To Good Home: Male brindle boxer, neutered, 65 pounds, good family dog. Call 545-2557.

Free To Good Home: Female tabby cat, gray, 2 years old, up-to-date shots, spayed; male golden retriever, 4 years old, up-to-date shots, neutered; white female fancy Chinese mouse with cage and gerbil with cage. Call 223-4606 or 260-3975.